

Lighthorne Parish Council Meeting

District Councillors report

9th February 2021

Update on the most recent Business Grant Scheme.

The Chancellor announced a ‘one-off top up payment’ of £4k/£6k or £9k to businesses in the retail hospitality and leisure sectors depending on the rateable value of the property. I can confirm that this will result in a total of £4.7million being paid into accounts of 982 businesses by W/E Friday 5th February. The regular payments for lockdown are continuing in addition to this.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council Working Together

Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council are moving towards the next step: *“To create a single statutory South Warwickshire Council covering all of the activities currently carried out by Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council by 2024.”*

Next week, both Councils will be making important decisions on the future shape and delivery of Council services in South Warwickshire.

The options for The Cabinet are as follows:

1. To receive or to reject the Deloitte report “Creating a South Warwickshire Council”.
2. To either support the principle of pursuing further integration between Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council to the point of a full merger of the organisations.
3. Subject to option 2:
 - For the Chief Executive to develop proposals for a full merger between Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council in order to create a South Warwickshire Council.

- That the sum of £100,000 pa for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24 be provided to ensure that there is sufficient programme management support the guide the Council through this the transition to a full merger.

government services across South Warwickshire, generating greater value for our residents and taxpayers.”

Warwick District Council will be discussing the report at their Executive on Thursday 11 February before going before its Full Council on Wednesday 24 February. The recommendations are the same.

Stratford District Council will discuss this at the Cabinet Meeting today 9th February.

Homelessness

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that 1 Evesham Place, Stratford be renovated to provide homes for the Rough Sleepers. It is the intention of Stratford District Council that there will be no rough sleepers on the streets in the District especially in Stratford town where the rough sleepers tend to go. This will also be discussed at Cabinet today.

In January 2019, Warwickshire’s Housing Board sought approval from Warwickshire’s Health and Wellbeing Board to form a Homelessness Strategic Group that reports directly to the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board; and that The Homelessness Strategic Group begins to work on a County-wide strategy on tackling and reducing homelessness. Since then, the Warwickshire Homeless Strategic Group has been formed and has been working collaboratively across a wide range of partners to produce a County-wide strategy on preventing homelessness. The development of this strategy has been delayed for several months during 2020 owing to COVID-19; however, since wave one abated, partners have made a concerted effort to continue their work on this strategy to bring it to fruition. Since the strategy is County-wide it is proposed that District and Borough Councils take the completed strategy through their own governance processes in January 2021, with the final version going to the Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2021.

Do you need help to access food and manage your money this winter?

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facinghardship Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme. The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme helps the most vulnerable residents at times of unavoidable crisis when they have no other means of help. The COVID Winter Grant Scheme provides one-off financial support for people in need over the winter months. It can help families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals who have been particularly affected by the pandemic to ensure that they have the support they need to afford food, energy, water bills and associated costs. To enquire or apply call the Local Welfare Scheme. Visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme Call: 0800 408 1448 or 01926 359182 Debt and benefits Citizens Advice provides free, confidential, impartial and independent advice on a range of subjects, including benefits, debt, money management, consumer rights, employment and more.

PopUp Business School

With just 7 days to go, I wanted to remind you about the PopUp Business School who are running a one-off START & BUILD A BUSINESS TRAINING EVENT to help to support people in our community.

Facing redundancy? Unemployed? Considering a new career? Always wanted to run your own business but not sure where to start? Established business but need some inspiration?

- Learn how to start grass-roots businesses doing something you love.
- Topics include marketing, sales, customers, web and social media presence, legal, key steps to success.

This unique and alternative method will help you to take action and make your ideas happen.

Here are a few details about the online PopUp Business School:

Dates: Monday 15 – Friday 19 February 2021.

- **FREE and totally online** (via Zoom – you will be sent a link upon registering).
- 5-day course, 10am – 3pm daily.
- Full schedule of morning and afternoon sessions – attend what is relevant for you, you can base this around your other commitments.
- Changing the way business is taught, based entirely on passion and practicality.
- You do not need academic qualifications or pots of money available to start a business.
- No eligibility criteria and under 18s welcome.

- Targeted at residents living in the Stratford District but, as it is online, people from outside the district may also join.
- Opportunity to explore whether self-employment is for you if not, we can assist with careers and job seeking.
- Ideal if you already run your own business but want to expand or brush up on some of your skills.
- Completely free but people must register here: www.popupbusinessschool.co.uk/stratford to guarantee your place.